

**Fun 'n FITchburg – Mass In Motion/RWJ
Community Mobilization Network Partner Meeting
February 22, 2010
Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 3:09PM with 12 members present. 2 members sent regrets they were unable to make the meeting and was announced to the group. Steve Curry pointed out the the Community initiative Youth Advocacy Council is holding a fun filled evening to educate Fitchburg residents about the problems of trans fats in foods and possible solutions. The purpose is to promote a healthier Fitchburg. It is being held in The FHS Auditorium this Wednesday evening from 6PM-7:30PM, February 24, 2010.

Members were then asked to introduce themselves as well as the organization they represent and any collaboration they have or have planned as a result of the contacts made through Fun 'n Fitchburg and/or sector interviews. Newer members or members that haven't taken part in interviewing cited issues they have done or planned to do which are similar to the Fun 'n Fitchburg initiative. Many members cited valuable relationships they have already formed or intent to form. Discussion was also held in regards to the interviews which are currently in progress. A very important point was raised by Donna Wysokenski that the interview sectors are to be rated and scaled as a whole rather than 1 particular department within the organization. Ayn Yeagle requested all information regarding Policy and Environmental scales must be submitted to her for final evaluation.

The group did not find any challenges in the process of interviews but strongly emphasized great things that have happened in the interviews such as Jen Gordon at the YMCA being able to point members of the Elm Street Congregation Church with YMCA benefits.

The group then proceeded to answer the Community at Large Sector Assessment of the Change Tool. The group managed to discuss and answer all 7 Tobacco questions of the assessment as well as all 15 questions in the Physical Activity assessment. The presence of Steve Curry, Fitchburg's BOH Director proved to be an asset for answering the tobacco module, but answers to the physical activity module although answered are lacking supportive data which the team hopes to fill in during stakeholder interviews.

Fitchburg Police Sgt. Mark Jackson then discussed the new Police program located at Green Acres in Fitchburg. Besides a police presence in a neighborhood which has suffered crime, the police and Sgt. Jackson are attempting to gather the youth there and provide them will alternative things to do and form a "trust" with the neighbors that it is a safe place to live. In collaboration with Community Connections, a focus group was held at the Green Acres substation last week with over ten youth in fifth, sixth, and eighth grade in attendance. Youth provided information around physical activity and healthy eating and will be useful when developing the Community Action Plan for Fun 'n FITchburg. Sgt. Jackson also runs the local track and field events for children 5 and up for which he is currently recruiting and is open to all youth in the community.

Mary Giannetti then discussed WalkBoston which is scheduled for March 11, 2010. Fitchburg's Mayor Lisa A. Wong will be a speaker at the event discussing the Fun 'n FITchburg efforts. Invitations to the event were provided to all members present and are attached with the minutes. WalkBoston will be providing training to the CMN at our next meeting to assist with walkability audits as part of Fun 'n FITchburg's community-wide assessment.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:45PM with the next meeting to be held on March 22, 2010 from 3:00 to 4:30PM. Members were asked to bring some comfortable walking shoes as we are actually going out in the neighborhoods to conduct audits.